

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028964
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05
IGA-02 /057 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT:PS
APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPOST

-----090741Z 106270 /20

R 090155Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING ON ETHIOPIA

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 4
AT THE NOON DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

Q.DOES THE
DEPARTMENT HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE
ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA?

A. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT? THERE ARE A LOT OF REPORTS
COMING OUT.

Q. ARE WE CONCERNED ABOUT THE TURMOIL IN THE COUNTRY?
ARE WE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICANS THERE?

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A. WELL, IT SEEMS TO BE A PURELY DOMESTIC AFFAIR AMONG
THE LEADERS OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

Q. IT'S A QUESTION . . .

A. WELL, THIS IS MY GENERAL COMMENT. I CAN TELL YOU
HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE THERE. OUR LATEST REPORT IS

THAT THERE IS NO DAMAGE TO AMERICAN PROPERTY OR

AMERICAN CASUALTIES. WE HAVE ABOUT 1500 AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA, OF WHOM APPROXIMATELY 200 ARE OFFICIAL. WE HAVE A CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THERE AT THE MOMENT, MR. ARTHUR P. TIENKEN.

Q. COULD YOU SPELL THAT?

A. T-I-E-N-K-E-N-.

MR. BROWN: ANYTHING ELSE I CAN OFFER YOU ON THAT?

A. NOT ON ETHIOPIA.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT THAT THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN RESIGNED AND HAS ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN THE U.S.

A. WE HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS, ARE LOOKING INTO IT, BUT SO FAR HAVEN'T TURNED UP ANY INFORMATION ON IT. WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING THAT CONFIRMS THAT THE GENTLEMAN YOU ARE REFERRING TO HAS COME TO THIS COUNTRY WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE HE IS.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A U.S. . . .

A. EXCUSE ME. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ON ETHIOPIA BEFORE WE GO ON?

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Q. YES.

A. OH, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ETHIOPIA?

Q. YES.

A. ALL RIGHT. IT'S A NUCLEAR DEAL. (LAUGHTER)

Q. IS THERE A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ETHIOPIA?

A. YES, THERE IS.

Q. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION OF SUSPENDING THIS MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS A RESULT OF THE TURMOIL IN THE COUNTRY?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION OF THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE THE DIMENSIONS, THOUGH?

A. YES, I WILL GIVE YOU ECONOMIC AND MILITARY. U.S.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977
IS \$18 MILLION; GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR FY77
IS \$6 MILLION.

END TEXT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE028964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSBARRETT:PS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770045-1167
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770258/aaaabyss.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d9cf18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3363375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING ON ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, US
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d9cf18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009